# 's A-B-C

## 'n Fibel vum John Birmelin

The German Fibel, or A-B-C Book, like our English primer, or horn-book, is a very early device for teaching the young. After the invention of printing, such A-B-C books were made more interesting through illustrations of animals, plants and household objects, whose initials indicated the successive letters of the alphabet. Now and then crude doggerel rimes were introduced. Such alphabet rimes continue to be popular, at least orally, among our Pennsylvania German people to this day. One such FIBEL we printed in the ECK for September 14, 1935. The one here printed was arranged by our well known John Birmelin.

**A** wor en Abbel, so rot un so rund.

**B** wor en Bobbel, so glee un so gsund.

**C** wor en Cent, was wor er so glee;

**D** wor en Daaler, un sel iss viel meh.

**E** wor en Esel, was wor er so faul.

**F** wor en Fuhrmann, der fohrt mit em Gaul.

**G** wor en Gans, so dabbich un fett.

**H** wor en Hund, im Hof an de Kett.

**I** wor en Insch, un so wild as sie kumme.

**J** wor en Jockel, un eens vun de dumme.

**K** wor en Kaater, fangt Ratte un Meis.

**L** wor en Lump, un den bloge die Leis.

**M** wor en Maad, im kaduniche Schartz.

**N** wor en Nieger, was wor er so schwartz.

**O** wor en Ox, un wor immer noch leddich.

**P** wor en Parre, der macht uns en Breddich.

**Q** wor der Quendel, gut-riechicher Tee.

**R** wor en Ratt, un so flink uf de Bee.

**S** wor en Seiche, geht alsemol daerrich.

**T** wor en Tarn uf de Backeschtee Kaerrich.

**U** wor en Uhr, mit Gewichter un Kett.

**V** wor der Veldi, so faul un so fett.

**W** wor'n Wallfisch, hot gschwumme im See.

**X** wor en Hex, an die glaabt mer net meh.

**Y**psilon hot net viel aus sich gemacht.

**Z**ett werd gewehnlich fer'n Zippel bedracht.